



**Committee for Development Policy**  
United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs  
Development Policy and Analysis Division

# **Launching of the Handbook on the LDC category and LDC 2015 Country Snapshots**

**Briefing**

**New York, November 19<sup>th</sup> 2015**

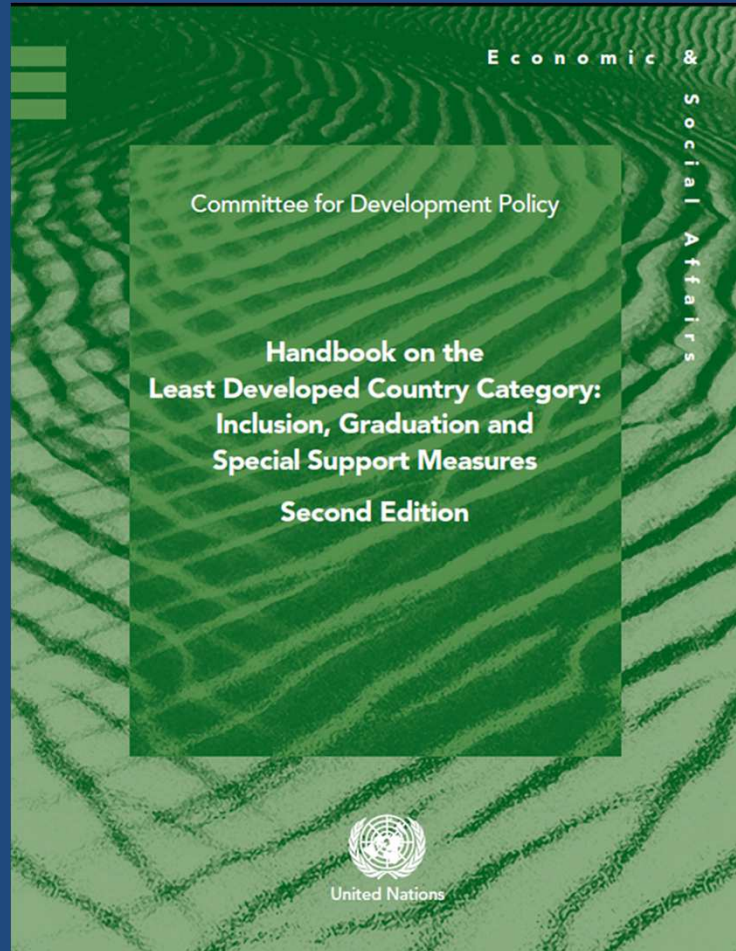
Ana Luiza Cortez, Secretary  
Matthias Bruckner, Economic Affairs Officer  
Committee for Development Policy  
UN-DESA

# Structure

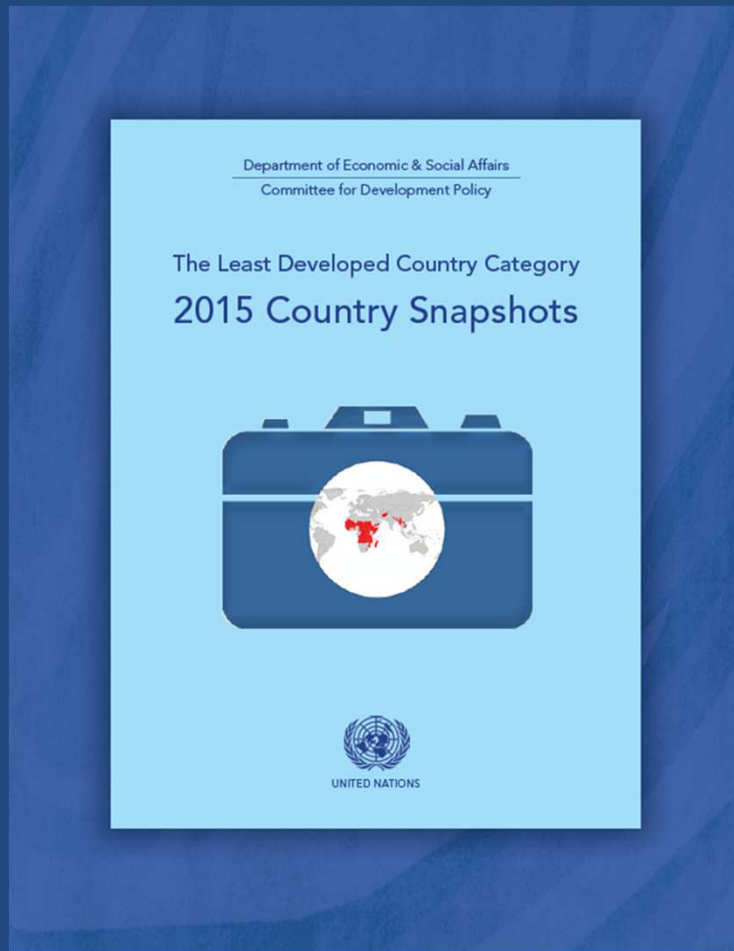
1. Purpose of the publications
2. The LDC category
3. The LDC criteria
4. International support measures for LDCs

# Purpose of the publications

- Information dissemination (E/1998/ 46)
- Promote greater transparency
- Improve access to technical information
- Increase awareness of the LDC category:
  - Facts, methodologies and processes
  - Greater use of LDC-specific support measures
  - Preparation for graduation



- Updates previous version (2008)
  - Methodological changes
  - Smooth transition and monitoring provisions
  - French version coming up soon
- 
- ✓ Also available from CDP website:
    - [http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/policy/cdp/cdp\\_ldcs\\_handbook.shtml](http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/policy/cdp/cdp_ldcs_handbook.shtml)



- Individual country information
- 2015 Triennial review
- Criteria indicators
- Available in two formats:
  - Category: 48 countries
  - Individual snapshots

[http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/policy/cdp/cdp\\_ldcs\\_countryfacts.shtml](http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/policy/cdp/cdp_ldcs_countryfacts.shtml)



The screenshot displays the UN DESA Committee for Development Policy (CDP) website page titled "The Least Developed Country Category 2015 Country Snapshots". The page is structured with a left-hand navigation menu, a central content area, and a right-hand sidebar.

**Left-hand navigation menu:**

- Committee for Development Policy**
  - About CDP
  - CDP Publications
  - LDC Information
  - LDC Data Retrieval
- World Economic Monitoring**
  - Project LINK partnership
  - Global Economic Outlook Database
  - Global Modelling Tools
  - World Economic Vulnerability Monitor
- Capacity Development and Advisory Services**
  - CDAS Home
  - Toolkits
- Other Initiatives**
  - MDG GAP Task Force
  - Development Policy Seminars
  - Integrated Implementation Framework (IIF)
  - UN Task Team on Post-2015
- Stay In Touch**
  - Sign up for DPAD News
  - E-mail:
  - Sign up

**Central Content Area:**

The main heading is "The Least Developed Country Category 2015 Country Snapshots". Below this is a graphic of a blue briefcase with a globe inside, labeled "The Least Developed Country Category 2015 Country Snapshots".

**The 2015 Country Snapshots** compiles the key statistical data used by the Committee for Development Policy (CDP) at the 2015 triennial review of the least developed country category.

Least developed countries (LDCs) are defined as low-income countries suffering from structural impediments to sustainable development. To identify LDCs, the CDP uses three criteria: gross national income (GNI) per capita; human assets index (HAI) and economic vulnerability index (EVI). HAI and EVI are indices composed of four and eight indicators, respectively. The three criteria together with these indicators are presented in one-page profiles for each of the 48 countries classified as LDCs in 2015, thus providing a snapshot of each country's situation at the 2015 triennial review. The snapshots also illustrate the gaps in progress towards the LDC graduation thresholds for each country, while comparing individual outcomes with corresponding results for all LDCs and developing countries.

[Download full snapshot report: English](#)  
[Download list of LDCs: English](#)

**Individual Snapshots**

Country	Added
Afghanistan	1971
Madagascar	1991
Angola	1994
Malawi	1971
Bangladesh	1975
Mali	1971

**Right-hand sidebar:**

- CDP Sales Publications**
  - Recent Sales Publications
  - Handbook on the LDC
  - Sales Publications Archive
- CDP Reports to ECOSOC**
  - CDP Reports to the Economic and Social Council
- CDP Background Papers**
  - CDP Background Paper Series
  - CDP Background Paper Archive 2000-2010
- CDP Statements**
  - CDP Statements
  - CDP Presentations

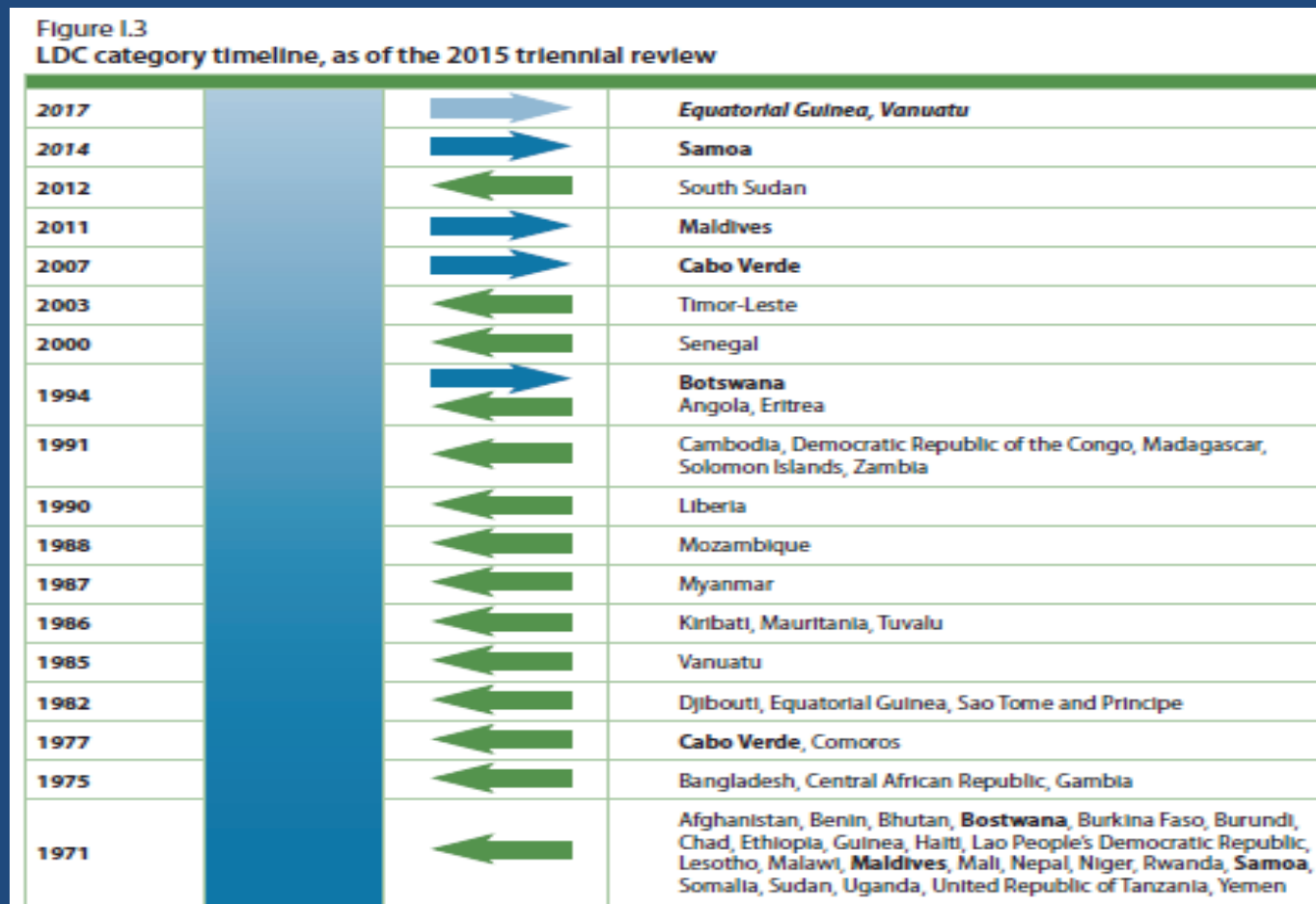
The bottom of the screenshot shows a Windows taskbar with various application icons and a system clock indicating 3:26 PM on 17/11/2015.

# The LDC category

- ➔ Countries consistently lagging behind
- ➔ Special measures for catching up, beyond what available for other developing countries
- ➔ Main challenges:
  - low income and lack of financial resources
  - Limited or absent manufacturing base; limited participation in international trade besides commodities
  - Low level of human capital
- ✓ Created in 1971: 25 countries



# Currently: 48 countries are LDCs



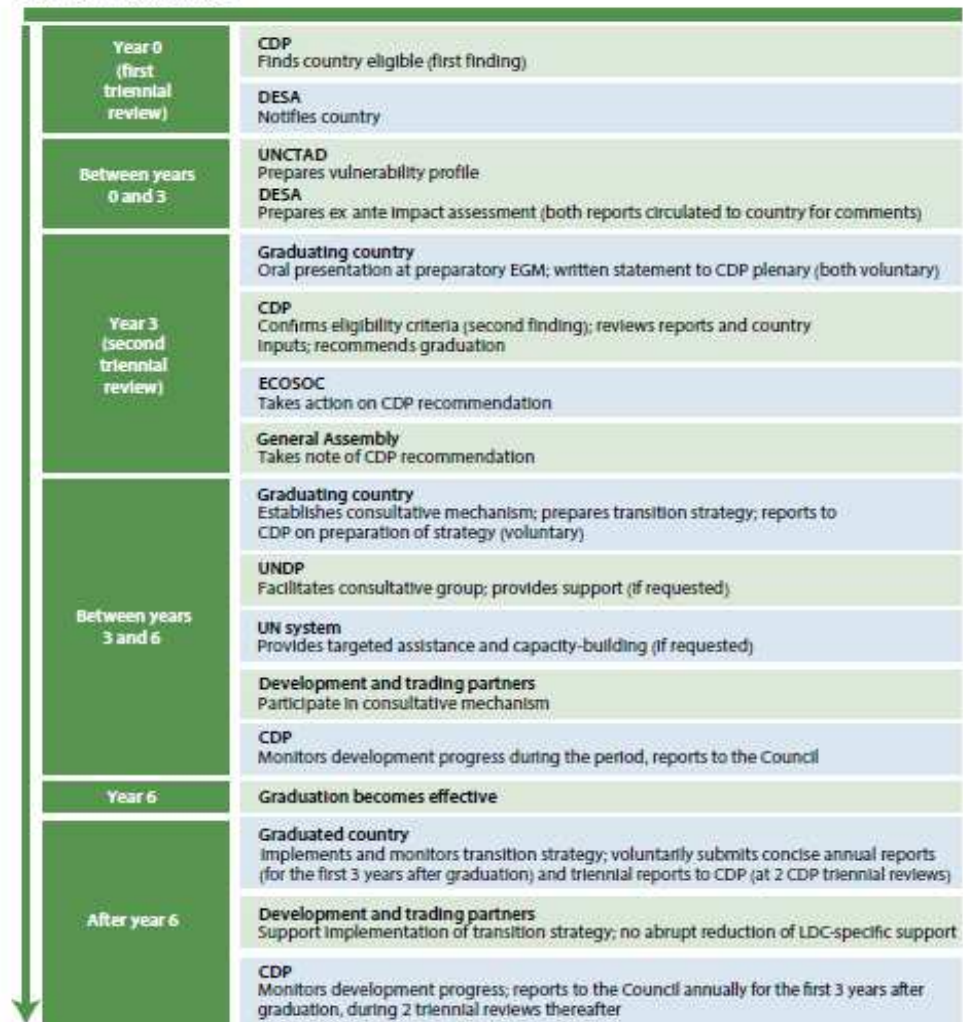
- 2 additional countries recommended for graduation by CDP
- 6 countries will be considered by the CDP for graduation in 2018



# Graduation procedures

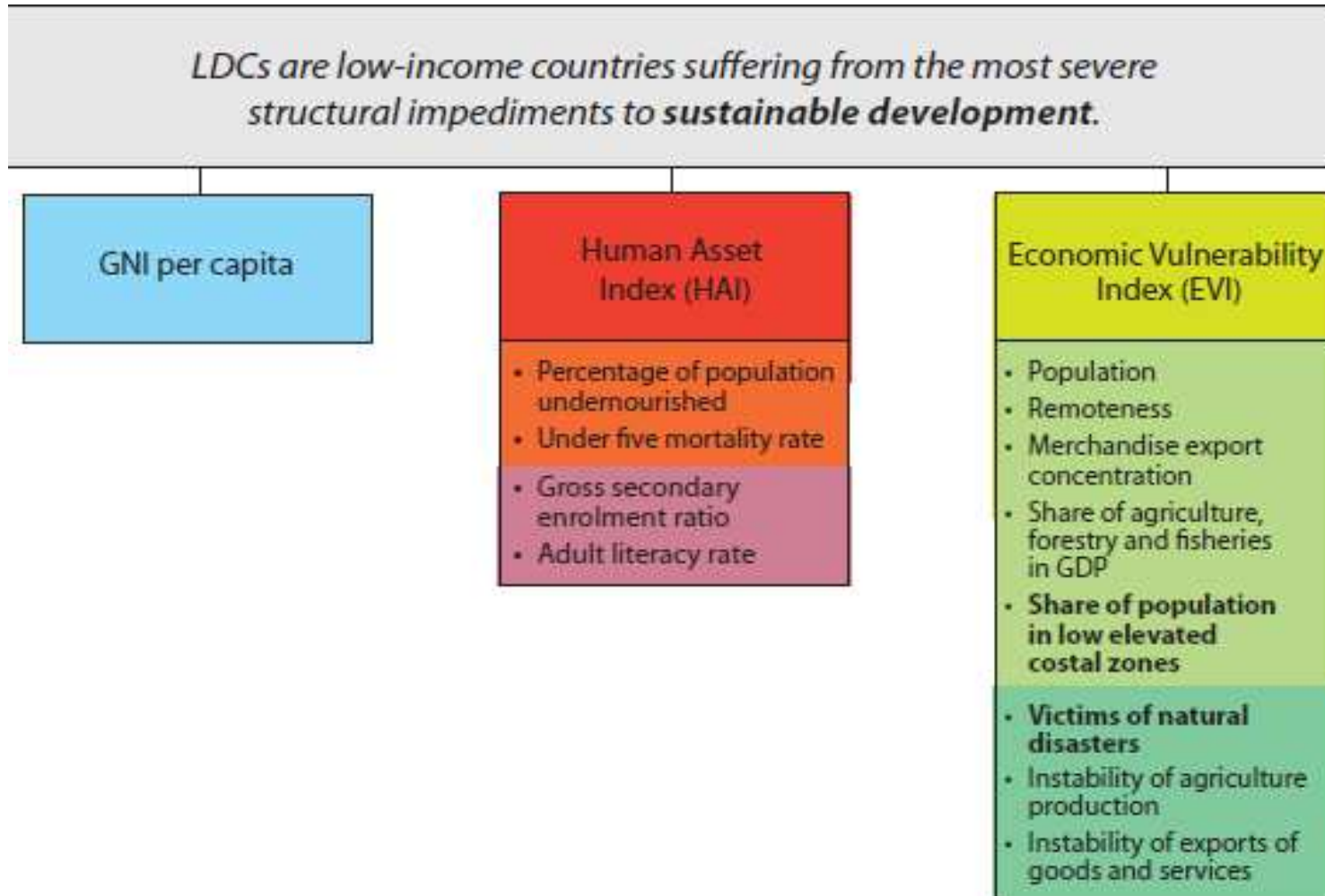
- Multi-stage process
- Multiple actors
- Based on rigorous methodology
- Objective: no country to fall back into the category

Figure I.4  
Graduation time frame



Source: Report of the Committee for Development Policy on the fifteenth session (18-22 March 2013), *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council*, 2013, Supplement No. 33 (E/2013/33); and General Assembly resolution 67/221 of 21 December 2012.

# LDC criteria and indicators



# LDC criteria in the Handbook

- Data sources
- Methodologies

- Sample calculations
- Visualizations

Figure III.2  
Composition of the HAI: selected countries, 2015 triennial review

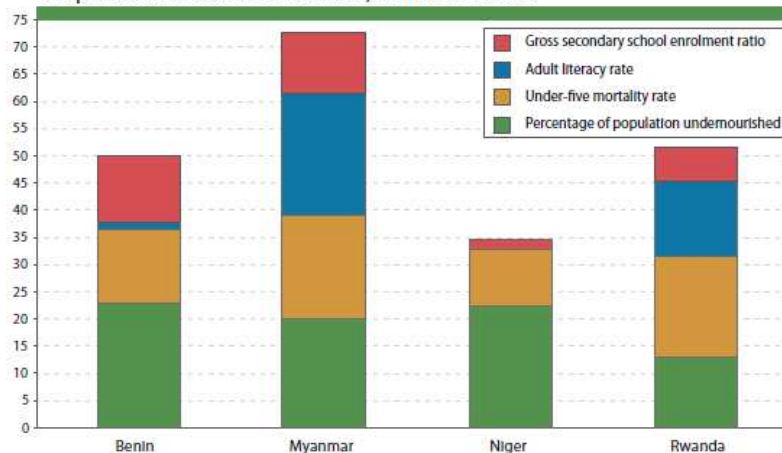


Figure III.6  
Composition of the EVI: selected countries, 2015 triennial review

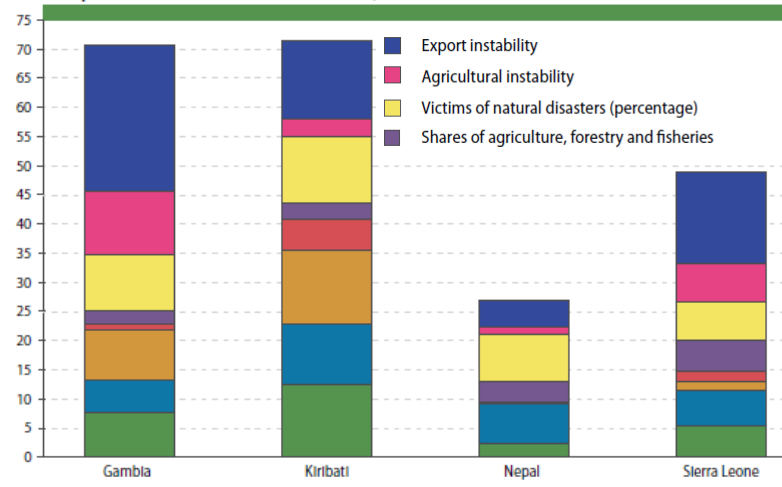
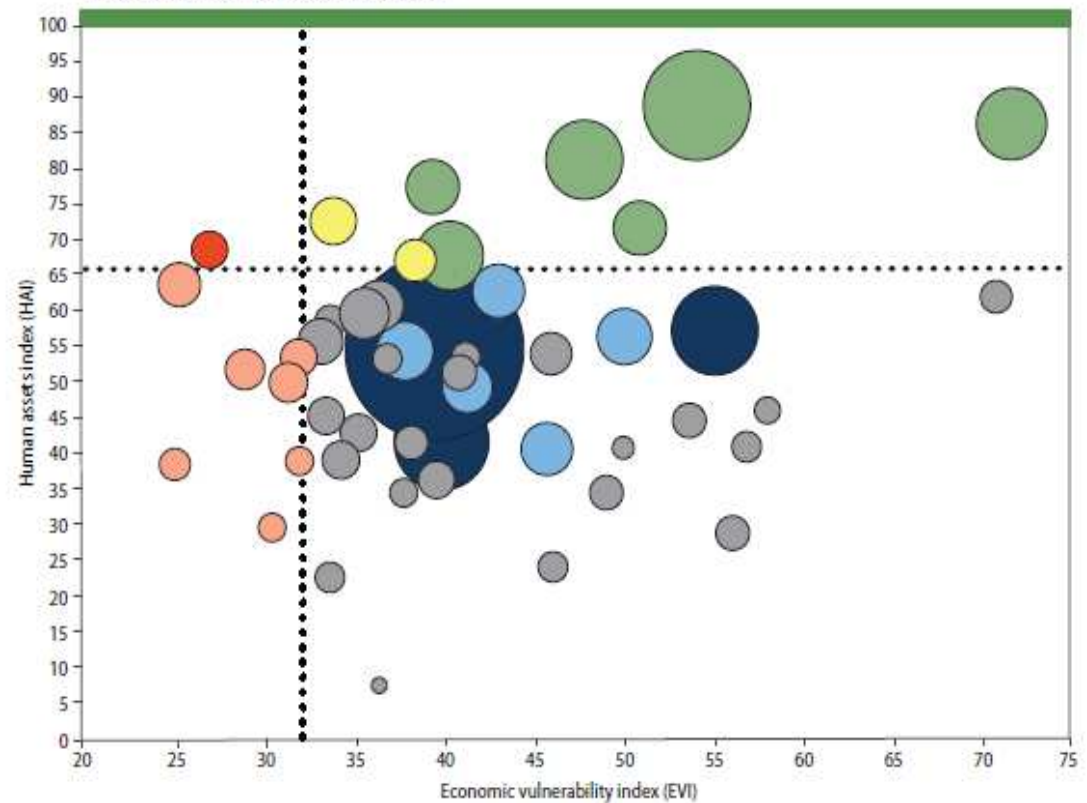


Figure III.7  
Results of the 2015 triennial review



# Country snapshots

- ➔ One page summaries of 2015 review for all LDCs
- ➔ Position in relation to graduation thresholds

## Afghanistan

### Per capita gross national income (GNI)



### Human assets index (HAI)



#### HAI indicators

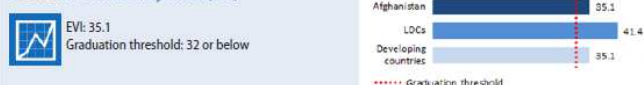
**Under-five mortality rate**  
Value: 97.3  
Index: 47.1  
Source: UN IAG for Child Mortality Estimation

**Percentage of population undernourished**  
Value: 24.7  
Index: 67.2  
Source: FAO

**Gross secondary school enrolment ratio**  
Value: 54.3  
Index: 49.2  
Source: UNESCO

**Adult literacy rate**  
Value: 31.7  
Index: 9.0  
Source: UNESCO

### Economic vulnerability index (EVI)



#### EVI indicators

**Population**  
Value: 30,551,674  
Index: 18.2  
Source: UN/DESA, Population Division

**Remoteness**  
Value: 51.1  
Index: 51.4  
Source: CDP

**Merchandise export concentration**  
Value: 0.27  
Index: 19.9  
Source: UNCTAD

**Share of agriculture, forestry and fishing in GDP**  
Value: 26.9  
Index: 43.9  
Source: UN/DESA, Statistics Division

**Share of population in low elevated coastal zones**  
Value: 0.0  
Index: 0.0  
Source: CIESIN

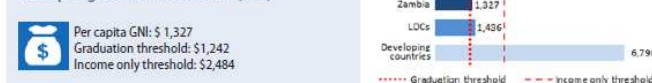
**Instability of exports of goods and services**  
Value: 15.8  
Index: 36.1  
Source: UN/DESA, Statistics Division

**Victims of natural disasters**  
Value: 1,674  
Index: 76.5  
Source: EM-DAT

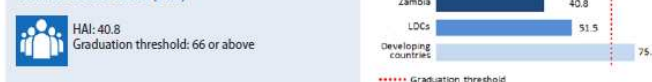
**Instability of agricultural production**  
Value: 7.2  
Index: 30.7  
Source: FAO

## Zambia

### Per capita gross national income (GNI)



### Human assets index (HAI)



#### HAI indicators

**Under-five mortality rate**  
Value: 87.4  
Index: 53.1  
Source: UN IAG for Child Mortality Estimation

**Percentage of population undernourished**  
Value: 48.3  
Index: 27.8  
Source: FAO

**Gross secondary school enrolment ratio**  
Value: 40.5  
Index: 33.9  
Source: CDP

**Adult literacy rate**  
Value: 61.4  
Index: 48.6  
Source: UNESCO

### Economic vulnerability index (EVI)



#### EVI indicators

**Population**  
Value: 14,538,640  
Index: 29.7  
Source: UN/DESA, Population Division

**Remoteness**  
Value: 79.9  
Index: 87.4  
Source: CDP

**Merchandise export concentration**  
Value: 0.64  
Index: 63.8  
Source: UNCTAD

**Share of agriculture, forestry and fishing in GDP**  
Value: 18.6  
Index: 29.8  
Source: UN/DESA, Statistics Division

**Share of population in low elevated coastal zones**  
Value: 0.0  
Index: 0.0  
Source: CIESIN

**Instability of exports of goods and services**  
Value: 17.8  
Index: 42.5  
Source: UN/DESA, Statistics Division

**Victims of natural disasters**  
Value: 3,209  
Index: 85.0  
Source: EM-DAT

**Instability of agricultural production**  
Value: 7.2  
Index: 30.9  
Source: FAO

# International support measures

- Development assistance
- International trade
- General support

*[Smooth transition provisions]*





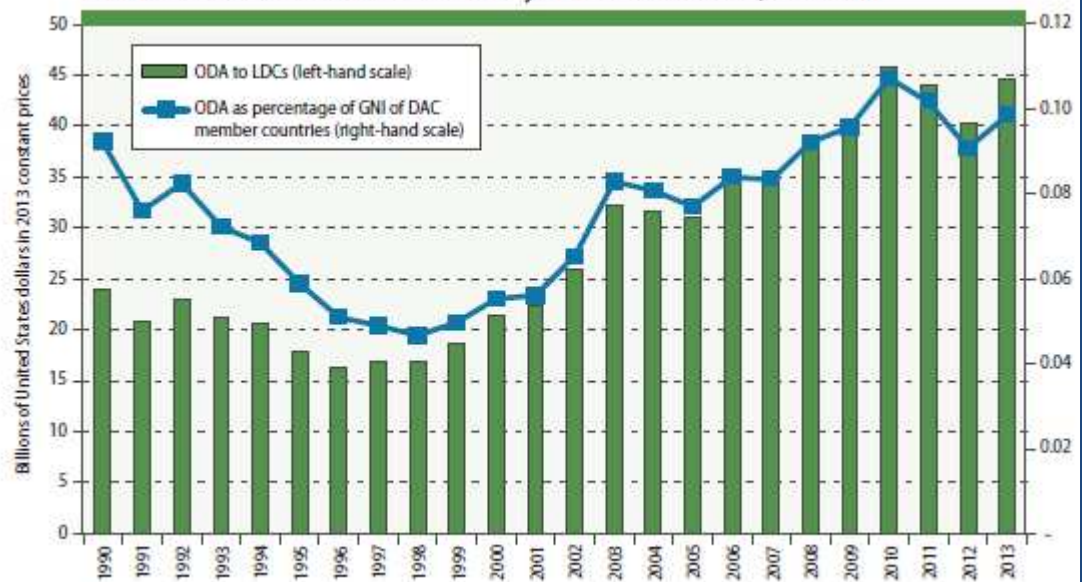
## International trade

Figure II.1  
Tariff treatment on goods imported from LDCs by developed economies, 1996-2012



## Official development assistance

Figure II.2  
Total net disbursements of ODA to LDCs by OECD/DAC members, 1990-2013



Source: OECD/DAC

# International Support measures







# Support Measures Portal for Least Developed Countries



[Home](#) [Trade](#) [Development Assistance](#) [General Support](#) [Find a support measure](#) [Learn more](#)



## Improving Access to Support Measures

This Portal gives users access to information about special international support measures (ISMs) adopted by the international development community for countries included in the LDC category. ISMs are meant to assist LDCs in confronting their special development challenges and in achieving progress towards graduation from the category. The measures can be grouped into 3 broad areas of assistance:



### Trade

International support measures from development partners related to international trade.

[go to Trade »](#)



### Development

Support measures related to the volume and quality of Official Development Assistance.

[go to Development »](#)



### General Support

Other support measures such as dedicated travel funds and caps on contributions to the UN.

[go to General Support »](#)

### Latest stories

#### ■ Bangladesh' exports to Canada: the importance of flexible rules of origin\*

The Canadian GSP scheme for the LDCs was revised in 2002 when almost all tradable items were made...

#### ■ LDCF Background and Experience

The LDCF was proposed at the 7th session of the Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC in...

[more »](#)

### Latest news

#### ■ LDCs request indefinite extension of TRIPS transition periods

At the meeting of the WTO Council on TRIPS which took place in Geneva on 6 -7 November 2012,...

#### ■ Briefing LDC Portal to New York based Delegates

On Thursday 15 November the CDP Secretariat will organize a briefing for delegates to present the...

[more »](#)

### New! Coverage

#### SPOTLIGHT: EIF success stories - lessons learned

Several reports have reviewed the impact of EIF projects. Most of these studies give valuable...

#### Jonathan Werner, Coordinator EIF Secretariat

Jonathan Werner - Coordinator at the Enhanced Integrated Framework at the WTO. Mr.

### New! Coverage

#### LDCF Background and Experience

The LDCF was proposed at the 7th session of the Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC in...

#### United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

UNDP gives particular attention to the development challenges of LDCs through earmarking a...

### New! Coverage

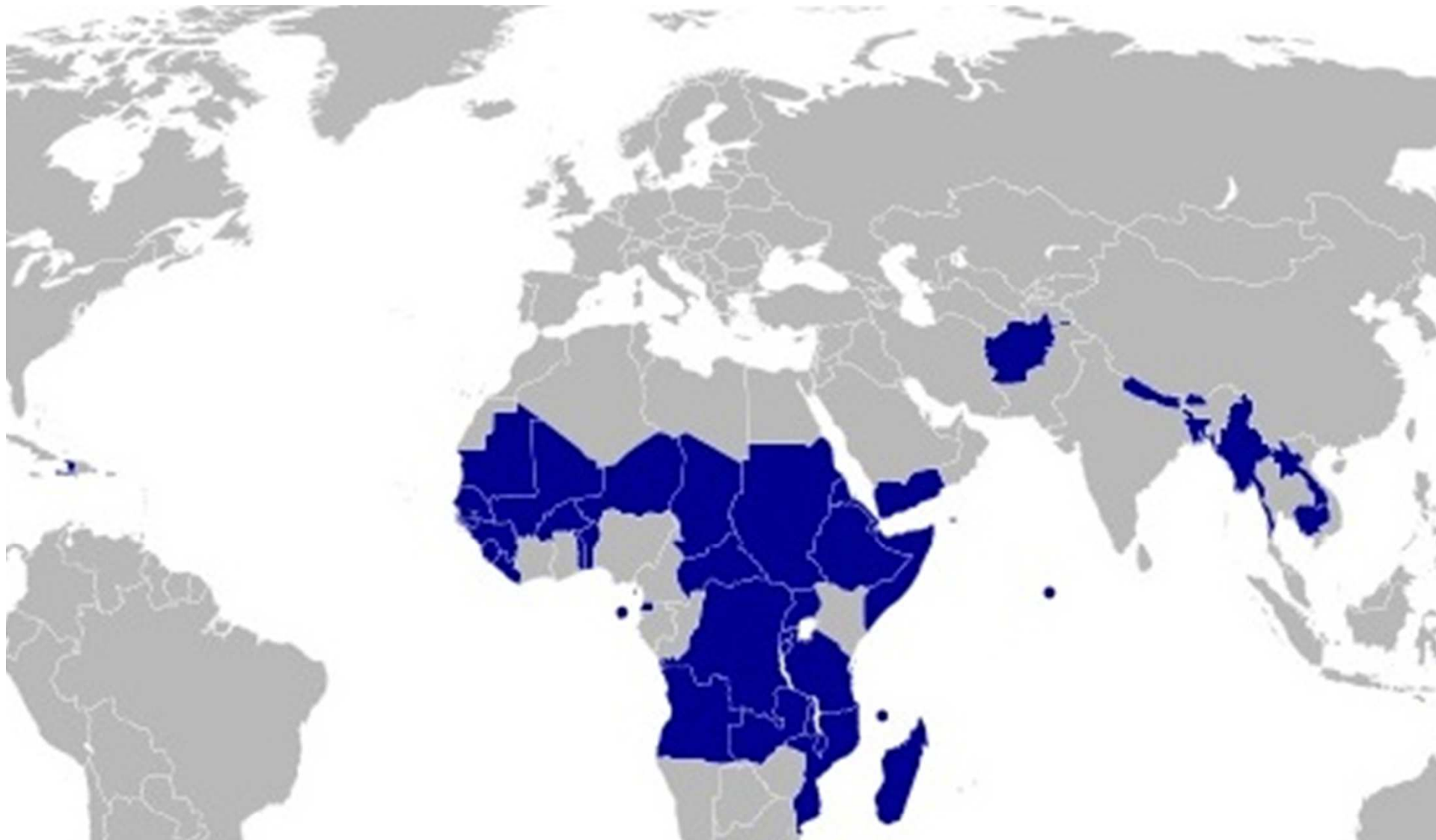
#### United Nations Office of the High Representative for the LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS (UN-OHRLLS)

OHRLLS was established on the recommendation of the Secretary-General of the UN by the GA in its...

#### Briefing LDC Portal to New York based Delegates

On Thursday 15 November the

[WWW.UN.ORG/LDCPORTAL](http://WWW.UN.ORG/LDCPORTAL)



**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

**[WWW.UN.ORG/EN/DEVELOPMENT/DESA/POLICY/CDP/INDEX](http://WWW.UN.ORG/EN/DEVELOPMENT/DESA/POLICY/CDP/INDEX)**

CDP Secretariat